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Stripes™



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

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Eight pages

Senate approves NATO expansion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted 80 to 19 Thursday to approve adding Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to the nearly half-century-old North Atlantic Treaty Organization and to leave the door open for other former Soviet satellites to join later.

The strong bipartisan vote was a crucial foreign policy victory for President Clinton, who has made NATO expansion a top priority of his second term.

Clinton said he was delighted by the “overwhelming margin” of the ratification. “This vote is a major milestone on the road to an undivided, democratic and peaceful Europe,” the president said in a statement.

The final tally was 12 votes more than the two-thirds majority needed for treaty modifications. It does not go to the House or require Clinton’s signature.

Passage came after the Senate rejected, 59-41, an amendment by Sen. John Warner, R-Va., for a three-year moratorium before any further members are added.

While neither NATO nor the Clinton

administration has designated any additional members beyond the three, nearly a dozen other nations have applied.

All 16 present NATO members must ratify the agreement, as must the three incoming members. Canada, Denmark, Germany and Norway already have done so. The Czech Senate ratified it Thursday, two weeks after the lower chamber.

Clinton and congressional supporters called the proposed expansion — the first since Spain joined NATO in 1982 — a natural next step in redrawing the political map of Europe after the end of the Cold War.

Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, the senior Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic “three highly qualified democracies who have chafed under the Soviet yoke for four decades.”

“We’ll be righting a historical injustice,” he declared.

But opponents cited potential hidden costs and said a bigger NATO would further isolate Russia.

Clinton friend re-indicted

WASHINGTON (AP) — Striking a second time at President Clinton’s friend, Whitewater prosecutors charged Webster Hubbell, his wife and two associates Thursday with conspiring to avoid taxes on hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments Hubbell received from Clinton supporters.

The 10-count grand jury indictment charged Hubbell with evading taxes on

income he received from Clinton friends and political supporters who sought to assist him after he resigned as associate attorney general.

The financial help was set up after a March 1994 meeting at the White House, alleged prosecutors, who have been investigating whether the payments were “hush money” to discourage Hubbell from cooperating in an in-

dependent counsel’s probe of Clinton’s business dealings.

Hubbell, who then was first coming under criminal investigation, “performed little or no work” for the consulting fees he received in 1994, the prosecutors alleged in the indictment.

Some of Clinton’s top aides have acknowledged seeking clients and consulting work for Hubbell.

Convicted spy calls espionage ‘permanent fun’

NEW YORK (AP) — In his first U.S. interview, a convicted spy said that providing allied secrets to Iraq in the months before the Persian Gulf War was “permanent fun, five days per week.”

“If there’s something I am unsatisfied about it’s that I didn’t (spy) for a longer time, or especially now where Iraq is again threatened by the United States,” Juergen Gietler said on a 60 Minutes segment scheduled to air Sunday.

Gietler, an archivist in the German Foreign Ministry, took NATO strategy documents sent to his office for archiving and passed along the information to the Iraqi military attache in Bonn. Among the documents were U.S. intelligence reports on Iraq’s Scud missile capability and deployment plans for U.S. stealth bombers.

Gietler, who had converted to Islam, admitted he received money from Iraq, but said it was not his primary motivation.

“I was on the Iraqi side,” he told the CBS newsmagazine. “I felt it was my duty. Whatever there was I would have turned it over to my controller. Spying for me, it was fun, permanent fun five days per week.”

Gietler said he met Iraq’s military attache, Gen. Osmat Joudi Mohammed, by chance at a restaurant and volunteered to supply the information.

“To me, the victims in Baghdad, and in other parts of Iraq were the important ones,” Gietler said, even though the allies had not yet attacked Iraq when he was providing the documents.

Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, triggering the 1991 Gulf War.

Gietler was arrested by German police in August 1990.

Panel linked to Ky. crash of bomber

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials suspected that a newly installed fire-warning instrument panel contributed to the February crash of the B-1B bomber in Kentucky, and grounded the rest of the bombers until the panel was replaced, military officials said Thursday.

The official determination of the cause of the crash by the Air Force's Accident Investigation Board is expected to be made public within three weeks.

Until that report is completed, it won't be clear whether the Air Force was correct to blame the fire-warning equipment, said Lt. Eric Elliott, a spokesman for the Air Combat Command in Langley, Va.

The fire-warning instrument panel has a light that warns crew members of overheating equipment or on-board fires. It also has switches that control the discharge of fire extinguishing material.

The new instrument panels were installed beginning in September 1997 on 60 of the nation's 93 B-1B bombers to replace aging panels, Elliott said.

The B-1B bomber with a new fire-warning panel went down Feb. 18 near Marion, Ky., in clear sky while on a training mission. Four crew members safely ejected.

New Army trucks subject of restrictions, alerts

By Newsday

WASHINGTON — The first batch of the Army's newest trucks has been involved in a series of roll-overs that have resulted in load restrictions and sharply reduced speed limits, according to Army safety alerts.

At least 12 rollovers have forced Army officials to restrict most of the trucks, estimated to cost \$100,000 apiece, to speeds of no more than 30 mph on surfaced roads and 12 mph on sharp turns, documents show.

The trucks were designed to carry troops and heavy loads while travel-

ing at 55 mph and zig-zagging over battlefields. They were to be dropped by parachute from assault planes or unloaded from cargo planes and ships.

"Operation of the (truck) must be conducted with special attention and caution," said one Army warning that cited a series of "rollover accidents." While there have been an unspecified number of troop injuries, there have been no deaths, according to Army officials.

Most of the first 8,000 of 85,488 trucks that are part of a \$15.7 billion Pentagon effort to replace Army vehicles dating to

the Korean War are involved.

The disclosures come on the eve of a Clinton administration decision to sign a new contract with Stewart & Stevenson, the Houston defense contractor, to buy 9,000 more Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles.

"It is a class-one, serious problem, and we are very concerned about it," said Ken Jenkins, a spokesman for Stewart & Stevenson.

Jenkins said efforts were being made to fix the problem. Still uncertain is whether taxpayers would foot the bill for the defective trucks.

Germans close neo-Nazi probe

BONN, Germany (AP) — Speaking as the final witness in a three-month parliamentary probe into neo-Nazi incidents in the German army, the defense minister claimed Thursday the testimony showed no evidence of deep-seated extremism.

"The central thesis that questionable structures are developing in the armed forces has fallen apart," Volker Rühe told the investigative committee before the panel wrapped up its investigation. "Two or three evil-doers still don't mean

there's any structural element."

The committee, set up in February after a series of neo-Nazi incidents were made public last year, will release its own conclusions by the summer.

The inquiry was urged by the opposition over the resistance of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's center-right coalition, after it was revealed in December that convicted neo-Nazi terrorist Manfred Röder had given a speech at an officer's academy in 1995.

WWII disaster tale likely to get new twist

By St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — War stories are told and retold until they fade into the shadow of history. But this weekend the largely untold story of one of World War II's greatest disasters at sea — the sinking of the troopship Rohna off the coast of Algeria — will get a fresh telling by survivors at a reunion in St. Louis.

"We lost two-thirds of our battalion of 860 men that day. It was the day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 26, 1943, and I'll never forget it," said survivor Bennett Livingston, 75, of Granite City, Ill., who feels he was touched by an angel when he vacated the spot in the ship that minutes

later got a direct hit from a radio-controlled bomb fired from a German attack bomber.

The flying bomb — actually an early prototype of a guided air-to-surface missile — was one of Hitler's new wonder weapons and a forerunner of the larger and deadlier "buzz bombs" and V-2 rockets that later terrorized London.

Seymour Raiffie, 77, of Creve Coeur, Mo., had a home-plate view of the bomb as it skimmed over the water heading straight at his troop ship, 100 yards directly behind the Rohna in the 25-ship convoy. The missile then turned sharply right and sped to the Rohna.

Stripes

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Live on prime time: Man commits suicide

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man shot himself to death on live television after stopping his truck on a freeway overpass, aiming a shotgun at traffic and unfurling a banner criticizing health maintenance organizations.

Television helicopters captured Thursday's drama as rush hour traffic backed up on several of the area's busiest freeways.

The man leaped from his truck when it burst into flames, apparently trapping a dog in the cab.

The man pulled off his burning clothes, went to the edge of the overpass as if to jump, then backed off, picked up the shotgun and shot himself.

For nearly an hour before the man killed himself, cameras were trained on him as he sat in the truck, patted his dog, drank from a can, talked on a cellular phone and fumbled with a backpack.

At a Burbank Airport terminal, there were shrieks and gasps of horror in a crowd that had gathered around a television set. Several mothers covered their children's eyes.

The coverage of the man's suicide by some TV stations reignited debate about television's eagerness to broadcast live, potentially explosive events.

"I wouldn't think this is the proudest day even for those who absurdly call themselves 'helicopter journalists,'" said professor Bryce Nelson of the University of Southern California School of Journalism.

The violent, unsettling image of a distraught man shooting himself on a freeway overpass prompted TV stations to issue apologies.

"We did not anticipate this man's actions in time to cut away, and we deeply regret that any of our viewers saw this tragedy on our air," KNBC-TV said.

Court-martial starts for Marine in dangling death

TOKYO (AP) — The court-martial of the last of five Marines charged in the death of a fellow Marine, who fell after being dangled from a barracks window, began today.

Cpl. Geoff A. Tessier, 21, of Nashua, N.H., is charged with involuntary manslaughter and assault and battery in the death of Lance Cpl. Christopher Epley, 22, of Brandenburg, Ky., a Marine spokeswoman said.

A verdict was expected in one to three days, Marine spokeswoman Sgt. Jennifer Wolf said.

Military investigators say Epley was accidentally dropped from a third-story window Dec. 21 during a drinking party. A group of Marines was playing a game called "trust," in which they took turns dangling each other by their ankles.

Epley died of head injuries at a military hospital on Okinawa, 1,000 miles southwest of Tokyo.

On Thursday, a court-martial sentenced Pfc. Phillip S. Oxendine, 19, from Lumberton, N.C., to 10 years in prison for involuntary manslaughter in Epley's death.

Oxendine was also dishonorably discharged, demoted to private and stripped of all pay and benefits. He will serve time in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Oxendine's verdict is automatically up for appeal.

The maximum penalty for involuntary manslaughter is 10 years in prison.

Two other Marines charged in Epley's death were convicted earlier this month of disorderly conduct. A third, who was present in the room but not accused of taking part in dangling Epley, pleaded guilty to charges of disorderly conduct.

Iran ranks No. 1 in terrorism

By New York Times

WASHINGTON — Iran remains "the most active state sponsor of terrorism" despite last year's election of a more moderate president, the State Department said Thursday.

In its annual report on international terrorism, the department noted that

Iran's new president, Mohammad Khatami, and his deputies had adopted "more conciliatory" rhetoric and had publicly condemned some forms of terrorism. But the report said their words have yet to be matched with deeds.

"There is no evidence that Iranian policy has

changed, and Iran continues both to provide significant support to terrorist organizations and to assassinate dissidents abroad," the report said.

The report, required by Congress, said that the Tehran government was responsible for at least 13 assassinations last year.

Researchers say they know how anthrax kills

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an important step toward finding drugs to protect against some biological weapons, researchers have discovered how anthrax toxin destroys cells and rapidly causes death.

Now that science knows the target for the anthrax toxin, researchers should be able to find a drug that will block its action, said Dr. George F. Vande Woude, a National Cancer Institute researcher and co-author of a study to be published in

the journal Science.

"An inhibitor drug would make anthrax as a weapon as useful as a water pistol," said Vande Woude.

Experts consider anthrax weapons a major threat to both military personnel and civilians. Bioterrorism weapons using anthrax or other bacteria are easier to make and distribute than nuclear weapons. Anthrax bombs are a major concern of United Nations weapons inspectors working in Iraq.

Attorney General Janet Reno and FBI Director Louis J. Freeh warned Congress last week that U.S. civilian targets are vulnerable to biological terrorism. Some in Congress have said classified studies suggest such an attack on civilians could occur within a decade.

The military is inoculating all of its troops against anthrax, using a vaccine that would prevent infection from the disease. However, the vaccine is not 100 percent effective.

Recycling center open only to officers

By Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — The 31st Fighter Wing at Aviano now has a recycling center, but it is only for use by installation offices.

Personnel living on the economy and in government-leased housing will not be allowed to use it.

"The reason people (living on the economy) can't use the center is because they receive allowances to cover the cost of waste disposal," said Staff Sgt. Doug Pedro, base recycling program manager. If they were to use the base re-

cycling center, "the Air Force (would be) paying twice for this disposal."

The center was opened to make the base more environmentally friendly by reducing the amount of trash that has to be deposited in landfills. While recycling is old hat in Germany and some other European countries, it is a relatively new concept in Italy.

Separate bins for glass, paper, metal, plastic and wood will be installed at Aviano, according to Senior Airman Kelley Stewart, a base spokeswoman, who said all contain-

ers should be in place by the end of May. Until the center opened last week, the only items the base recycled were cardboard and wood. Everything else was thrown away.

Stewart emphasized that any items classified as hazardous materials or waste should not be deposited in the bins, but should be turned into appropriate agencies such as the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office or squadrons' hazardous waste managers.

All items destined for the base recycling center must be

placed in appropriate containers. Cardboard boxes must be broken down before being turned in, although wood pallets may be turned in whole, Stewart said Tuesday.

The base recycling center, operated by a civilian contractor, is located on the flight line next to the civil engineer pavements and equipment section. It is open 8 a.m. - noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The entire recycling program will cost the base about \$10,000 to put into operation, Stewart said.

Baker subject of bogus IRS probe, hearing learns

By Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A criminal investigator for the Internal Revenue Service, using bogus allegations, attempted to initiate a Justice Department probe of former Sen. Howard Baker Jr. and two other Tennessee politicians, a Senate hearing was told Thursday.

The agent, who had a serious drinking problem and was later fired for cocaine possession, had a long history of rogue behavior and had publicly boasted in bars around Tennessee that he wanted to get Baker, former Rep. James H. Quillen and state prosecutor David Crockett.

Such high-profile criminal prosecutions would have advanced the agent's career, according to testimony to the Senate Finance Committee.

The allegations came on the third day of the committee's hearings on misconduct and abuse by the IRS criminal investigation division. The hearings have grown increasingly contentious, with Democrats charging that the investigation politically motivated.

But the hearings produced a series of disclosures pointing to structural problems in the IRS. In separate testimony Thursday, three senior IRS examiners who handle complex corporate audits said IRS executives went easy on big corporations as a prelude to finding possible employment with them.

IRS Commissioner Charles Rossotti said after the hearing that he would ask the Treasury Department's inspector general to investigate.

Producers put condoms on porno actors

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For the first time since the AIDS outbreak, major producers of heterosexual porn videos will require actors to wear condoms on camera.

The move is prompted in part by reports that three adult movie actresses tested positive this year for the AIDS virus, indus-

try representatives said Thursday.

"It's a fairly big step," said Paul Fishbein, publisher of Adult Video News, a trade magazine.

The agreement emerged at a hastily called meeting April 13 of more than 40 adult film producers. The condom requirement extends to some of the big-

gest companies in the multibillion-dollar industry.

At Vivid Video, "it's been implemented and that's 100 percent with no sacrifices whatsoever," said David Schlesinger, spokesman of the Van Nuys-based company with more than \$20 million in annual sales.

NASA vetoes extra day in space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA vetoed an extra day in space for Columbia's astronauts because of concern over next week's landing weather and the weak condition of the remaining baby rats on board.

The decision Thursday means the space shuttle will return to Earth on Sunday, 16 days after lifting off on a voyage to study the brain. Good weather is forecast; the outlook is less favorable on succeeding days.

The astronauts, flight controllers and scientists had gone into the flight hoping for a 17th day of research. But 52 of the 96 baby rats launched aboard Columbia have died, and some of the survivors are weak.

Scientists want the rats back as soon as possible for dissection, before the animals deteriorate any further and spoil the findings. As it is, researchers have the minimum number of young rats with which to work.

"They're frustrated," said Joseph Bielitzki, NASA's chief veterinarian. "They put four years of solid effort into this and then had something unexpected happen. It kind of threw a monkey wrench into the works."

'Same old faces' grace Russian Cabinet

MOSCOW (AP) — Communist lawmakers assailed President Boris Yeltsin's new Cabinet on Thursday as "the same old faces" and called on the opposition to band together to organize nationwide anti-government protests.

Undeterred, Yeltsin announced another installment in his government shake-up, reappointing several former ministers and bringing some new figures into the leadership. Eleven ministers were named Thursday, and more appointments were expected next week.

But the Communist Party, upset over the make-up of the new Cabinet, promised

to cause trouble for Yeltsin. Among other things, it threatened to block ratification of the START II arms control agreement, which halves the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and Russia.

"It makes no sense to consider this treaty now when we have zero national security," Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov said at a news conference.

The U.S. Senate ratified START II in 1996, but the opposition-controlled Russian parliament has so far refused to approve it, with many lawmakers arguing the country doesn't have the money to destroy its weapons.

The Communists, who have about one-third of the seats in the Duma, the lower house of parliament, also opposed Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko's appointment. The Duma confirmed him in a third vote last week, after Yeltsin threatened to dissolve parliament and call new elections.

Zyuganov sought to rally opposition forces into a "single front" that would organize countrywide protests against the government.

"The course (policy) is the same and there are the same old faces," Zyuganov was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

Puerto Rican police capture 552 in raids

By Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Police arrested 552 people wanted on homicide, drug, theft and other charges Thursday in raids throughout Puerto Rico.

Police also seized 30 firearms, 16 vehicles and dozens of small packages of cocaine and heroin, said police Chief Pedro Toledo.

Fires lead to higher fines

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia —

Faced with raging forest fires and choking air pollution, Malaysia will soon increase five-fold the penalty for starting blazes in forests and open fields, a newspaper reported today.

The approval by the attorney general, the government's top legal officer, to raise the fine to 500,000 ringgit, about \$135,000, was announced by the Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding on Thursday, the English-language New Straits Times said.

Suspected war criminal taken

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina —

Neighbors booed and whistled Thursday as Argentine police arrested a former Croatian army captain accused of killing thousands of civilians at a World War II concentration camp.

Dinko Sakic, 76, put up no resistance and smiled as he was led away from his home in the resort of Santa Teresita, about 200 miles from Buenos Aires.

Kangaroo attacks farmer

MELBOURNE, Australia — A farmer was rushed to the hospital with back injuries today after being attacked by a kangaroo, emergency services said.

Women's turn with Viagra

NEW YORK (AP) — For nearly a month, Viagra has helped hundreds of thousands of American men satisfy long-frustrated libidos.

Now it may be women's turn.

Already, a Boston University study is examining whether the new impotence pill for men might restore lost sex lives for women who take it. And the drug's manufacturer, New York-based Pfizer Inc., is doing early tests of Viagra involving 500 women in England.

A participant in the BU study, 39-year-old Baltimore hairdresser Laurie Kline, tried Viagra on Wednesday and said she had her first orgasm since her hysterectomy five years ago.

"It was really wonderful," she said. "It was like it used to be — maybe even a little bit better. It seemed like my body was back to what it used to be."

Before Viagra, she said, "three different gynecologists told me it was in

my head. I was surprised at how strong the belief was that the problem wasn't physical."

Researchers believe that just as prostate surgery and diabetes can lead to impotence in men, hysterectomies and high cholesterol and age can interfere with blood flow in women, giving them a numb sensation during sex and making it hard for them to be stimulated.

In men, Viagra acts on an enzyme prevalent in the penis to boost blood flow. Researchers believe it also boosts blood flow to the vagina, increasing a woman's lubrication and sensitivity to stimulation.

Viagra has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for men only, but doctors are free to prescribe it any way they see fit as long as they believe there's a medical reason.

Pfizer isn't promoting Viagra for women and cannot do so without running afoul of FDA regulations.

Mexico announces crackdown on King Kong's Snot slime toy

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The fluorescent green, oozy slime marketed to children as King Kong's Snot is not only gross; Mexico's consumer protection agency warned Thursday that it also is toxic.

The slime being sold in

street markets appears to have been made from a toxic substance stolen from laboratories of the state oil company Pemex, Federal Consumer Agency chief Roberto Campa said.

The government is analyzing the substance to determine exactly what it is.

The consumer protection agency warned merchants they will be prosecuted, and possibly jailed, if caught selling the slime.

It also acknowledged cracking down on the thousands of unlicensed vendors who peddle the goo on Mexico's streets.

Poll: The kids are all right

NEW YORK (AP) — Today's teen-agers get along with their parents, believe in God and trust the government, according to a nationwide poll published Thursday by The New York Times.

The poll of 13- to 17-year-olds also showed strong majorities who said they never drink alcohol and never smoke cigarettes or marijuana, the Times reported, without citing percentages.

Teens' worries for the future could come straight from a 1950s stereotype: a good job (28 percent), money (11 percent) and being successful (9 percent). Three percent worried about the environment.

The New York Times/CBS News Poll of 1,048 U.S. teen-agers was conducted by telephone from April 2 through April 7 and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Other responses:

- Six in 10 say distributing condoms in schools is a good idea.
- Almost half say sex before marriage is "always wrong."
- Just 1 percent said that teens' biggest problem is AIDS. Yet 18 percent said they personally knew someone who had tested positive for HIV, had AIDS or had died of AIDS.
- Ninety-four percent say they believe in God.

Fraud victim, 91, turns tables on crook

From wire reports

For more years than she could remember, Elma Umpleby, a 91-year-old pensioner from Cottage Grove, Ore., had been entering her name in magazine subscription sweepstakes, but never won a dime, much less a million.

In January 1996, however, a telephone call to her home changed her fortune — or so she thought.

Umpleby was told she had just won \$1 million in the American Family Publishers sweepstakes, the one promoted by entertainers Ed McMahon and Dick Clark.

The man who called was an impostor, however. He had no connection to the giant magazine distribution company based in Jersey City, N.J.

Umpleby was instructed to wire \$2,500 by Western Union — no checks please — to Los Angeles "to guarantee me the money," she later would testify.

Although mildly suspicious, she complied, she said, because "I guess I was money-hungry." Soon after leaving the Western Union office, however, Umpleby realized she had been scammed.

Someone else might have been too embarrassed to admit to being fleeced out of \$2,500 by a stranger, but not Umpleby. She confided in a friend and together they set a trap for the con man by installing a recording device on her tele-

phone. Should he dare call again, they would have his voice on tape to turn over to the police.

As luck would have it, he did call back a few days later, this time asking for \$3,000 more. Umpleby kept him talking for as long as she could while the recorder captured their conversation. Her amateur detective work paid off.

Her recording was one of seven audiotapes played before a Los Angeles federal court jury that Wednesday convicted Ray Prince, a singer and guitarist, on 15 counts of mail and wire fraud.

'Titanic' bootleg videos

The top-grossing film of all time is also No. 1 on the U.S. black market.

Titanic, the ocean liner disaster movie that picked up 11 Academy Awards, has become the most-wanted pirate video on the streets across the United States.

The Motion Picture Association of America's video piracy unit has seized 1,500 videos from street vendors in New York City since January, and dozens more in sweeps in Newark, Philadelphia, Chicago and Cleveland.

The video, two tapes selling for about \$10, comes in a professional looking sleeve with photography of scenes from the film, said Bill Shannon, who heads the association's East Coast anti-piracy unit.

"It looks factory fresh," Shannon said recently. "It's going to be a blockbuster."

*Faces
'n'
places*

In The Stars and Stripes

10 years ago

May 1, 1988 — The first group of women to be assigned to combat logistics ships under new guidelines that opened up thousands of Navy jobs to females will report for duty late this summer, Pentagon officials announced.

20 years ago

May 1, 1978 — In the first installment of his long-awaited memoirs, former President Richard Nixon renewed the theme from his Aug. 8, 1974, resignation speech — that he had committed no crime or misdemeanor warranting impeachment.

30 years ago

May 1, 1968 — New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller reconsidered running for the Republican presidential nomination and announced he would run against Richard Nixon.

40 years ago

May 1, 1958 — After less than three hours of debate, the Senate approved a \$577 million military pay raise bill designed to attract and retain a "real career force" of atomic-age fighting men.

50 years ago

May 1, 1948 — Throughout the Western world, demonstrating celebrants gathered on the traditional workers' holiday in two groups — Communist and anti-Communist.

Study: Mammals came even earlier

NEW YORK (AP) — Maybe you learned it in school: Mammals waited until the dinosaurs died out before they started diversifying into the variety of major groups seen today.

That's what the fossils say.

But a new study says it isn't so.

Most of the modern groups, or "orders," of mammals apparently began before the dinosaurs met their doom 65 million years ago, researchers conclude.

The work suggests at least five major lineages, which today include such creatures as rodents, elephants and armadillos, might have appeared more than 100 million years ago. The results, based on analysis of genes, were presented in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*.

Kentucky connection spurs Derby hopes

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Nick Zito is back at his second home, and loving every minute of it.

What's not to love for the New York trainer, who has won the Kentucky Derby twice— with Strike the Gold in 1991 and Go for Gin in '94?

After he won with Go for Gin, he proclaimed Louisville "the greatest city in the world."

Which may explain why he's so popular at Churchill Downs. On Saturday, Zito sends out Halory Hunter to challenge 14 other 3-year-olds in the 124th Derby.

Zito became even more of a local fan favorite once he began training Halory Hunter for Rick Pitino, who led Kentucky to a national basketball title in 1996

before leaving to coach the Boston Celtics.

The combination, plus Halory Hunter's win in the Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland, may be the reason Zito's chestnut colt was made the second favorite at 7-2, behind Indian Charlie (2-1) and ahead of Horse of the Year Favorite Trick (4-1).

"He's the star of the show," Zito said. "There is no way we could be here with Halory Hunter. That's No. 1."

Zito and Pitino have formed quite a duo. While Zito is a big sports fan — he likes the New York teams — he was sporting a Celtics sweatshirt the other day.

"When in Rome, do as the Romans

do," Zito said, smiling.

And Pitino? He was bouncing around the backstretch the other day and made the post position selection Wednesday night, choosing No. 4 because, he said, it was Lou Gehrig's number.

Pitino is thrilled to have a horse in the Derby after spending eight years merely watching the race as the Wildcats' coach.

"I still don't quite believe it," Pitino said. "I'm very undeserving as a horse owner to have a horse of this magnitude. I have not toiled in this business very long. But the one thing I am is enthusiastic about the sport and very confident in Nick Zito."

And Zito is pretty sure Halory Hunter will run well.

UCLA put on 3 year's probation

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Although UCLA has been penalized by the NCAA for the second time in less than a year, the university won't feel any impact if it avoids further problems.

The NCAA placed UCLA on three year's probation Thursday for violating basketball recruiting rules and giving improper benefits to athletes when Jim Harlick coached the Bruins.

The only tangible penalty is a reduction from 12 to six the number of official visits to the campus by recruits in 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

However, since the Bruins will have only one senior and one junior on scholarship next year, the sanction shouldn't handicap them. Over the last two years, with many more scholarships available, UCLA has averaged 7 1/2 visits per year.

The Bruins remain eligible to compete in postseason play and appear on television.

Additional penalties were not imposed even though UCLA was placed on probation for three years last May for violations by the softball program.

The NCAA said the basketball violations occurred from 1993-95, before those in softball took place.

The school is on probation until April 30, 2001.

"The infractions cited in the NCAA report occurred at least 17 months ago," UCLA athletic director Peter Dalis said in a statement issued by the school. "All of the infractions mentioned in this report were part of the Pacific-10 Conference's report."

'Strongest' stay alive in NHL playoffs

By Associated Press

They had the three best records in the NHL this season, the only teams with more than 100 points. In pivotal playoff games, the Dallas Stars, Detroit Red Wings and New Jersey Devils looked like they deserved to be there.

That hasn't been the case throughout the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs this spring. On Thursday night, though,

the Stars and Wings took 3-2 series leads and the Devils stayed alive against Ottawa.

Mike Modano broke out of his scoring slump with two goals, including the controversial game-winner with 8:44 to play, as Dallas outlasted the San Jose Sharks 3-2.

"It was time to put up or shut up," Modano said. "Things hadn't been going my way. I had to start playing in-your-face hoc-

key and just let the scoring chances happen."

They happened just often enough for defending champion Detroit, which beat Phoenix 3-2.

"We played the way we're capable," goalie Chris Osgood said.

In the only other game Thursday, Edmonton won at Colorado 3-1 to force a sixth game at Edmonton on Saturday. The Avalanche lead the series 3-2.

Heat's on for five without Mourning; Pacers advance

By Associated Press

There will be a Game 5 in Miami without Alonzo Mourning and Larry Johnson, and another Game 5 in Seattle with George Karl.

There will not be a Game 5 in Indiana or Inglewood.

The New York Knicks and Seattle SuperSonics staved off elimination and extended their first-round series to deciding fifth games Thursday night by beating Miami and Minnesota, respectively.

The Knicks beat the Heat 90-85 in a game that featured a fist fight between Mourning and Johnson with 1.4 seconds left that will undoubtedly result in suspensions.

"It's like *deja vu* all over again," Johnson said. "I'm going to be sitting in the hotel room."

The Sonics beat the Timberwolves 92-88, saving Karl's job for at least one more weekend.

"I think our team has finally gotten into the playoff seriousness that we needed to be in from the beginning," said Karl, who is in the final year of his contract.

The Pacers, meanwhile, moved on to the second round with an 80-74 victory at Cleveland.

And the Lakers also made it out of the first round by finishing off Portland 110-99.

Oakland rookie lives up to star billing

By Associated Press

The Oakland Athletics were expecting big things from rookie Ben Grieve this season, and he hasn't disappointed them.

One night after going 5-for-5, Grieve hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer to help the A's beat the Cleveland Indians 5-2 Thursday night.

"I've just been the guy to hit the ball in the right place at the right time lately," said Grieve, who is batting .314 with 16 RBIs and two homers. "I was happy but not surprised it went out. I know I'm capable of hitting the ball out of the park."

Grieve, who scored four runs and drove in two against Cleveland on Wednesday

night, hit a towering shot to right off Paul Assenmacher (1-3) in the eighth to snap a 2-2 tie and help Oakland win its fifth straight.

"It was a hanging curve," Assenmacher said. "He's a good hitter. I haven't seen enough of him to know what he has trouble with. I know he can hit a hanging curve a long way."

Cleveland has lost 10 of its last 14 games.

"This thing will turn around in the other direction for us," Indians manager Mike Hargrove said. "We're playing hard and overall playing well, but just can't get a key hit here or a key out there."

Oakland starter Jimmy Haynes allowed one unearned run on five hits over six innings. He was helped by three double plays and got 12 outs on grounders before leaving with tightness in his right shoulder.

"I'm OK," Haynes said. "I didn't want to take a chance and be out for a long time."

In other AL games, it was Kansas City 7, Toronto 4; Detroit 7, Texas 2; Tampa Bay 2, Minnesota 0; Baltimore 4, Chicago White Sox 1; Anaheim 7, Boston 2; and New York 9, Mariners 8 in 10 innings.

Edge goes to Cubs' pitcher, but McGwire strokes No. 11

By Associated Press

CHICAGO — Power pitcher. Power hitter. The 95 mph fastball of rookie Kerry Wood against the prolific home run stroke of Mark McGwire.

"I didn't want to get caught up in that," said Wood, the Chicago Cubs' 20-year-old right-hander. "I have a lot of respect for him, he's just a great hitter. He's always in the back of your mind, but I couldn't put too much emphasis on just McGwire. I had to get the other guys out, too."

Wood did that Thursday on a foggy night at Wrigley Field, pitching Chicago to an 8-3 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals with seven strong innings. He struck out McGwire twice, but McGwire later hit his 11th homer, tying him for the major league lead with Vinny Castilla and Ken Griffey Jr.

"He was impressive, just as advertised," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said of Wood.

"He's going to be good because he has a good live arm," Cardinals third baseman Gary Gaetti said. "He got a cushion and he pitched well with the lead. It was very challenging."

The loudest reaction from the crowd all night came when Wood faced McGwire, especially in the first after the first two Cardinals reached base. McGwire then took three straight strikes.

"The respect everybody has for

Mark and the young power pitcher, that's interesting to everybody," Cubs manager Jim Riggleman said.

"Mark is the premier power hitter in the game, and any time he comes to the plate, the interest is heightened."

In other NL games, Atlanta beat San Francisco 6-0, Colorado defeated New York 4-0, Los Angeles downed Pittsburgh 14-6 and San Diego stopped Florida 4-1.

McGwire broke through against reliever Marc Pisciotta in the eighth, hitting a two-run homer through the fog.

"The fog made it interesting between the seventh and eighth innings," said Chicago's Mickey Morandini, who drove in four runs, three with a bases-loaded double in the seventh.

"We couldn't see the scoreboard or the fans. After McGwire hit his homer, it cleared up a little. I'm just glad no one got hurt."

The 9:17 CDT start of the game, delayed 2 hours and 12 minutes by rain, was the latest in Wrigley Field history. During one stretch in the seventh, fog thickened so much the numbers on the center field scoreboard were not readable and outfielders were barely visible.

"I thought it was very serious. In the seventh, it got really bad. You couldn't see," Gaetti said.

Wood (2-2) was roughed up for seven runs over 1²/₃ innings in his previous start against the Dodgers.

Gordon credits team with wins

FONTANA, Calif. (AP) — Consistency is as important as winning, at least when it comes to winning Winston Cup championships.

Last June, in the inaugural California 500, Jeff Gordon's team took a calculated risk to win a race. In the aftermath of his fuel economy win over teammate Terry Labonte, Gordon breathed a sigh of relief about the positive results on a day that could have had major implications on his second series title.

"I ran out (of gas) after taking the checkered flag," Gordon said. "It was pretty close. The guys did an awesome job telling me to conserve when they did, and (crew chief) Ray Evernham did an awesome job on how long he wanted me to wait to get enough fuel and still have the lead when we went out."

For Gordon, that was about as exciting a way to win a race as he has managed.

"You've got two races going on out there," he explained. "We were going for the win by chancing the fuel mileage, but we were also going for the championship. It doesn't pay to run out of gas. It would have hurt us a lot in the championship. It was kind of a gamble and I was excited that we went for it."

Gordon says that type of win is exactly what makes his team, which has won two titles and finished second in the last three seasons, stand out.

"When we need the pit crew to step up, they step up," Gordon said. "When I need Ray to step up and make a call, he steps up and makes the right call."